

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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S E C R E T JIDDA 4531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, USEGJC

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY AID TO EGYPT

REF: A. STATE 144462 B. JIDDA 4027

1. DURING CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL JUNE 22, CHARGE' RECALLED TO PRINCE THAT HE HAD GIVEN FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT SAG HAD DECIDED TO LEND EGYPT \$600 MILLION. CHARGE' ADDED THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE VISIT OF UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON TO SAUDI ARABIA JUNE 28-29, AND OUR FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS AND NON-ARAB DONORS ON AID TO EGYPT, WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATE OF CONFIRMATION THAT AT LEAST \$250 MILLION OF SAG'S LOAN COMMITMENT TO EGYPT WOULD BE CREDITED TO THE \$900 MILLION - \$1 BILLION OF EMERGENCY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT WE WERE COORDINATING FOR EGYPT.

2. PRINCE REMARKED THAT IT WAS NOT SAG'S POLICY TO DISBURSE FOREIGN AID ON A GROUP BASIS; IT PREFERRED ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RETAIN A BILATERAL CHARACTER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HE ASKED WHY IF ASSISTANCE WOULD GO TO EGYPT ANYWAY--WHATEVER THE SOURCE OR MODALITY--DID IT MATTER SO MUCH THAT A QUARTER BILLION BE CREDITED TOWARD AMERICAN EFFORTS. CHARGE' REPLIED SAG PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN ASSUMED IN OUR EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE, THAT SAG PARTICIPATION IN OUR EFFORTS WOULD INCLINE OTHER

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DONORS TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY ALSO, AND THAT IT DID NOT

SEEM POSSIBLE THAT ANYTHING LIKE \$1 BILLION COULD BE
RAISED FROM NON-ARAB COUNTRIES ALONE.

3. CHARGE' ASKED IF IN OUR EFFORTS TO ELICIT AID FROM
OTHERS WE SHOULD MENTION EXTENT OF SAG'S LOAN
TO STIMULATE OTHER DONORS TO BE FORTHCOMING. SAUD
SAID THAT WAS UP TO THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT. IF THE
EGYPTIANS DID NOT OBJECT TO OUR DISCUSSING THE MAGNITUDE
OF THE SAG'S LOAN WITH OTHERS, THE SAG WOULD NOT
OBJECT.

3. SAUD ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE KIND AND AMOUNT
OF U.S. AID TO EGYPT DURING CY 1975; THIS WAS PROVIDED
TO HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A AND STATE 134950.

4. ACTING ECON CHIEF BUTCHER WAS TO SEE ABAL KHAYL
IN RIYADH ON THIS TOPIC SAME DAY; ABAL KHAYL, HOWEVER, HAD TO
CANCEL TO ATTEND MEETING WITH KING. ABAL KHAYL NOW IN
JIDDA AND WE HAVE ASKED TO SEE HIM.
HORAN

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